

Message Text

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13 10
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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R 090925Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5574

INFO USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GER

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0148

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MIL, PO

SUBJECT: GOP REQUESTS FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE

1. IN A GENERAL SESSION WITH PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO JANUARY 8
I REVIEWED WITH HIM OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. TOLD
HIM I WOULD BE VISITING USMISSION NATO AND GENERAL HAIG NEXT
WEEK AND HOPED TO EXPLORE WAYS OF BRINGING PORTUGAL CLOSER TO NATO.

2. AZEVEDO SAID THIS WAS A VERY IMPORTANT SUBJECT. GOP
POSITION TOWARD NATO HAD NOW BEEN CLEARLY DEFINED. BUT VALID
GOP CONTRIBUTION COULD ONLY BE MADE IF NATO ALLIES HELPED GOP
MODERNIZE ITS FORCES. HE LAID PARTICULAR STRESS ON NEED TO
UP-DATE AIR FORCE EQUIPMENT.

3. I TOLD HIM SUCH ASSISTANCE COULD NOT BE GIVEN UNTIL
GOP DEFINED MORE CLEARLY THE MISSION OF ITS ARMED FORCES.
HE SAID GOP HAD NOW DEVELOPED AN INTERNAL DOCUMENT DOING
EXACTLY THIS AND THAT DOCUMENT WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE AT
SOME APPROPRIATE TIME. I SAID THAT IF THIS WERE THESAY IT
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WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR GOP TO LAY OUT ITS MODERNIZATION

PRIORITIES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THIS DOCUMENT. AZEVEDO
AGREED TO DO THIS.

4. WE ALSO DISCUSSED OUR NEW OBSERVER TRAINING PROGRAM.
AZEVEDO WAS AWARE OF OUR CONVERSATIONS ON THIS AND WAS
ENTHUSIASTIC.

5. COMMENT: WITH THE CHANGED POLITICAL CLIMATE AND THE
ASCENDENCY OF THE OPERATIONAL MILITARY WE CAN EXPECT SOME
CONCRETE REQUESTS FOR EQUIPMENT SHORTLY. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY
TOLD GOP OUR RESPONSE WILL BE CONDITIONED ON A REDEFINITION
OF OF THE MISSION OF THE ARMED FORCES. AZEVEDO'S COMMENT
INDICATES THEY HAVE ACCEPTED THIS ADVICE.
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